



FOOD SECURITY UPDATE

Preliminary findings of the Disaster Prevention and Preparedness (DPPA) led *belg*/pastoral areas multi-agency assessment mission indicate critical food insecurity in Somali, Afar, Amhara and Tigray Regions. Seasonal crops have failed and animal production has substantially reduced. In all affected regions, migration and other types of coping mechanisms have increased dramatically. DPPA and humanitarian partners are consolidating findings.

In **Somali** Region, the joint assessment identified additional emergency beneficiaries for immediate assistance starting from July. The team reported that delay in humanitarian interventions could elevate estimated beneficiaries. Water scarcity is widely reported in Warder, Koraha, Afder, Liben, Fik and Gode zones. The Regional Government is calling for resumption of immediate tankering interventions. Crops have totally failed and pasture has not regenerated. High livestock death has affected herd size. Increases in admission of malnutrition cases have been reported particularly from Degehabur, Fik, Warder and Gode zones. Terms of Trade continues to be against pastoralists forcing them to sale two/three goats for a 50 kgs of sorghum. Meanwhile, a Special Committee for Somali Region led by the Director General of DPPA and the Humanitarian Coordinator will meet weekly to prioritize and coordinate multi-sectoral responses.

The findings of the multi-agency team increased incidences of stress migration have been in **Tigray Region**. Beneficiaries in the region have dramatically increased due to failure of *belg* production. The region received only 1.9 percent production from the planned estimate. Price increases have affected all wealth groups. Critical water shortage has been reported in five lowland woredas of Raya Azabo and Alamata woredas.

The multi-agency team reported critical food security problems in **Amhara Region**. Physical condition of livestock remains poor in highlands of North and South Wollo and North Shoa zones. The team reported staple food prices have recorded increases of 200 – 300 percent compared from same time last year. Following food security reports, DPPA has distributed relief food to three woredas in North Shoa and seven woredas in South Wollo zones.

The beneficiaries identified in **Afar Region** are expected to be addressed through the existing Productive Safety Net Programme (PSNP). Delayed distribution of PNSP resources (last received for April 2008), poor *sugum* rains and deteriorated Terms of Trade have negatively affected the food security situation of the region. Critical water shortage is reported in Elidar and Kori woredas in Zone 1; Bidu and Erebti woredas in Zone 2; and Teru and Yallo woredas in Zone 4.

Water and pasture shortages remain critical in Borena zone of **Oromiya** Region due to poor *ganna* rainfall, according to CARE. This has resulted in poor physical condition and reduced price of livestock; and unusual livestock migration towards Kenya border. WFP reports that in pastoral areas of Oromiya, particularly in East and West Shoa and lowlands of Bale and Borena, livestock production is declining. Admission rates show increase in CARE/ECHO Community-based Therapeutic Care (CTC) programs in Haromaya woreda of East Hararghe zone and Moyale woreda of Borena zone in Oromiya. The project distributed supplementary food to targeted children under five, pregnant and lactating women during 1–15 July in Bedeno, Girawa, Kurfachelle, Haromaya woredas and Dire Dawa town. CARE also distributed supplementary food to 2,042 screened children in Gemechis woreda of West Hararghe through the CTC program.

WHO conducted health and nutrition assessment in Harari, Dire Dawa and East Hararghe of Oromiya Region during 15 to 18 July. The mission report indicates deteriorating malnutrition with advanced marasmus and kwashiorkor case in Dire Dawa town, Harari, East and West Hararghe zones of Oromiya. In addition, increasing trend of admissions and re-admissions to feeding centers and establishment of new centers has been widely reported. To support health and nutrition situation analysis in Somali Region, WHO deployed a second team of two Medical Officers in Jijiga during 21–24 July.

WFP reported that malnutrition cases have increased in Damot Sorea, Boloso Sore and Sodo Zuria woredas of Welayita zone, **SNNPR**. The *belg* assessment findings for SNNPR are not provided yet. For more information contact: care.eth@ethionet.et, wfp.addisababa@wfp.org, who-wro@et.afro.who.int & info@dppc.gov.et

EMERGENCY RESPONSE

WFP reports that the national relief pipeline shortfall stands at 153,000 MT valued at US\$ 124 million. PSNP pipeline also faces 68,000 MT shortfall of cereal amounting to US\$ 54 million. WFP reports that despite arrivals of some cereals and blended food during July and August, the resources are insufficient to meet requirements for all targeted beneficiaries. The findings of the *belg*/pastoral areas assessment findings could further restrict available resources. According to WFP, during January to July, some 133,892 MT of mixed commodities (cereals, pulses, oil and blended food) have been allocated under the relief component, out of which 107,607 MT has been dispatched.

UNICEF reported that four shipments of 362.8 MT of Plumpy'Nut are pending customs procedures for release. Another batch of therapeutic food, consisting of 679 MT of Plumpy'Nut, 50 MT of F-100 therapeutic milk and 159 MT of BP-100 has been ordered using the loan from UNICEF Headquarters. The shipments are expected to arrive in Ethiopia on 28 July and 4 August. Furthermore, UNICEF requested Government for a blanket tax exemption for emergency feeding supplies including therapeutic food, drugs and materials for Therapeutic Feeding Programs (TFPs).

UNICEF further notes that training for Health Extension trainers has started in Oromiya (75 trainers from 34 woredas) and in SNNPR (113 trainers from 52 hot spot woredas). The training exercise is supported by UNICEF, Save the Children-UK, CONCERN and IMC. For more information contact: kmcdonald@unicef.org & wfp.addisababa@wfp.org

HEALTH UPDATE

WHO reports that active AWD cases continue to be reported in Amhara Region (Takusa, Conjje, Achefer, Ankesha and Denbecha woredas) and in Oromiya Region (Akaki woreda) indicating an increase in coverage from three weeks ago. The AWD technical working group led by the environmental health department within the Ministry of Health continues to discuss coordinated response. The need to focus on prevention activities with response interventions has been discussed. WHO has continued assisting the Regional Health Bureau in response to AWD epidemic through delegated Medical Officer and Environmental Expert targeting on water, sanitation and hygiene promotion. For more information contact: who-wro@et.afro.who.int